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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Black Sea)

DATE DISTR. 26 January 1953

SUBJECT Fortifications on Fort Nikolayev Island;
Observations at Odessa, and on the Dnepr

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1. On the way to Kherson, almost opposite the city of Ochakov, there is a small island named Fort Nikolayev. On the side of the island that faced the mouth of the Dnepr River there was a breakwater parallel to the island and protecting it. The breakwater was about 30 to 50 meters distant from the island and source was not sure whether it had any other use than protecting the island. On the island itself, there was a tall pillar with a frame on top, which source believed was a radar installation. On the side of the island that faced the sea, and thus protecting the strait which led to Kherson and Nikolayev, source observed placements for artillery and two cannons that were easily visible. Nearby, there was a low-lying barrack and some other small buildings.
2. At Odessa there were three metal floating drydocks of rather old construction, two of them with a capacity of 6000 to 7000 tons and a third that was much smaller. There were also two smaller reinforced concrete drydocks for ships of about 1500 tons. The drydocks came from Kherson, where there is a shipyard for the construction of such craft.
3. At the mouth of the Dnepr four or five dredges were observed dredging the bottom. Of these dredges, one was very large; in fact it was a regular 6000-ton steamship. The latter drew up the material from the bottom and, after crumbling it so that it was almost a powder, it threw it back in the river to be carried seaward by the river current. This dredge, in contrast to the others, did not need any tenders.

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